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Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8656

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, OVIP, PLOS, MX
SUBJ: TOPIC FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: PATRIMONIAL SEA

REF: MEXICO 8610

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE PROPOSES TO RAISE THIS TOPIC WITH PRESIDENT FORD. ECHEVERRIA MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF TWO CONFERENCES, ONE FOR GULF OF MEXICO STATES, ONE FOR CARIBBEAN, PRIOR TO NEXT LOS CONFERENCE. HE HAD SENT A SPECIAL MISSION TO VARIOUS CAPITALS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

2. EMBOFF OCTOBER 10 DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR MANUEL TELLO, MEMBER OF SPECIAL MISSION CITED ABOVE AND FOREIGN SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR IN CHIEF FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS. TELLO'S COMMENTS INDICATE SOME MODIFICATION OF GOM PLANS SINCE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH ECHEVERRIA. TELLO SAYS GOM HAS NO CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO ADVANCE ON THIS SUBJECT AT PRESENT. (WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SUBJECT IN GENERAL TERMS WILL NEVERTHELESS BE RAISED AT PRESIDENTIAL MEETING). TELLO'S COMMENTS FOLLOW.

3. TELLO AND COLLEAGUES CONSULTED WITH GOVERNMENTS OF JAMAICA, VENEZUELA AND CUBA. ALL, HE SAID, WERE RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE ON EFFECT THAT ACCEPTANCE OF PATRIMONIAL SEA CONCEPT WILL HAVE ON CARIBBEAN STATES. ACCORDING TO TELLO. INITIATIVE ON THIS SUBJECT CAME FROM JAMAICA, AS DID TERM FOR CARIBBEAN "MATRIMONIAL SEA". FOLLOWING TELLO'S MISSION, HE
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SAID, THERE HAVE BEEN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE FOUR

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COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK. NEXT STEP WOULD BE APPROACH BY MEXICO
TO CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE THEIR INTEREST IN
CONFERENCE. (TELLO SAID HONDURAS HAD PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED IDEA).
SIMULTANEOUSLY, JAMAICA WOULD APPROACH ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES
OF CARIBBEAN. IF IDEA PROSPERS, ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF NUCLEUS
OF FOUR MENTIONED ABOVE WOULD APPROACH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN-
VOLVED, AND STILL LATER U.S. BECAUSE OF PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN
ISLANDS. TELLO SAID BASIC IDEA WAS EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
DIVIDING ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF CARIBBEAN AMONG BORDERING STATES.
U.S. FISHING FLEET, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO FISH
IN CARIBBEAN, THOUGH "PUERTO RICAN AND VIRGIN ISLANDS FLEETS"
COULD DO SO. TELLO EVIDENCED SOME DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER PROPOSED
CONFERENCE WOULD EVER IN FACT TAKE PLACE. IT WAS, HE SAID,
JUST AN IDEA.

4. WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE MEETING OF UNITED STATES, MEXICO
AND CUBA ON RESPECTIVE LIMITS OF ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION IN GULF
OF MEXICO, TELLO INDICATED THAT RELATED PROBLEMS SIMPLER THAN
IN CASE OF CARIBBEAN, AND HE SAID THERE ARE NO PLANS AT PRESENT
TO PROPOSE A MEETING ON THE GULF RESOURCES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: MEXICANS HAVE ASKED THAT INCLUSION OF
THIS TOPIC IN PRESIDENTIAL AGENDA SHOULD BE HELD IN STRICT
CONFIDENCE FOR TIME BEING. AT DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION, REQUEST
THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED TO CARACAS, KINGSTON, LONDON, PARIS,
THE HAGUE, AND CENTRAL AMERICAN MISSIONS.
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